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## **Summary and conclusion**

## CHAPTER – 7

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

International migration is one of the very important potential for the development of livelihood strategies for under resourced countries through remittance transfers, which reduce poverty and unemployment at the macro level and improve the standard of living at micro household level. There are many people who are not directly involved in migration process but are positively and negatively affected by international migration. As migration develops backward areas it also empowers the traditionally disadvantaged groups - the women. The study attempted to assess at what extent international migration and resulting remittances has affected the empowerment of left behind women in Malappuram district. The study examines the struggles and achievements of the women who are left behind due to international migration.

This chapter proceeds in six heads. They are;

- 7.1 Structure of the study
- 7.2 Summary and Findings
- 7.3 Validation of hypothesis
- 7.4 Policy implication
- 7.5 Areas for future research
- 7.5 Limitations of the study

#### **7.1 Structure of the study**

The present study on “International Male Migration and its impact on left behind women in Kerala – A study of Malappuram district,” explores the various impacts of international male migration on women left behind due to the international migration of their husbands. The study is an explorative one which investigated with the struggles and achievements of those women.

Women are considered as second grade among the socially back-ward section in India. Since independence, the country has achieved significant growth and development in different fields. It has also been successful in reducing poverty and

improving education and health. But still the position and status of women lag behind in terms of their role in decision making inside and outside home. But with regard to the status of women, the scenario of Kerala is bit different from the rest of the country. In sex ratio, health, education and in case of women empowerment Kerala is performing better compared to national performance. Kerala compared to other Indian states having largest number of international migrants and receive higher share of remittances. In Kerala Malappuram district plays a significant role in the emigration scenario, in magnitude of remittance, in the number of emigrants, and thus in the number of left behind families. This is the context in which Malappuram district selected for the investigation. The study explores women empowerment implications of international migration and inflow of remittances on the left behind women.

It is hypothesized that there is significant association between international male migration and empowerment of women in the study area.

The study has been conducted by using secondary data and primary data. The primary data collected by sample survey is the main source of data for the study. A multi stage random sampling technique was used for selecting the sample households. From the 14 districts of Kerala, Malappuram district was purposively selected for the study because it has the largest number of international male migrants in Kerala, thus largest in the number of left behind women also, so it was selected for the study. A sample of 300 women equally from both migrant and non-migrant households forms the basis of data for the study.

The data analyzed through simple statistical techniques like averages, ratios, percentages etc. and various statistical tests like 't- test', Z test,  $\chi^2$  test, Mann-Whitney U, Wilcoxon Signed Rank test, Karl Pearson's Correlation Coefficient, Spearman's Rank Correlation etc. used to test the statistical significance of the association between variables and for the validation of the hypothesis. For presenting data, different types of diagrams, tables etc. are used. To measure the empowerment status of each households in the sample; a composite index for empowerment was developed. This was prepared using details from decision making power, financial management, mobility and inter-spouse consultation of the respondents. The empowerment index thus prepared is taken as the dependent variable. A multiple

regression analysis is used to find the association of dependent variable with independent variables.

The study had been organized in seven chapters, including introduction and conclusion. The first chapter, the introductory chapter, gives the research problem, significance and scope of the study. It also layout a connection between international male migration and empowerment. The chapter states the objectives, data source and methodology, plan of the study as well as the definitions and terms used in the study are also mentioned in the introductory chapter. The second chapter is a journey through the various theories of migration to provide a perception to step into the present study. The chapter also includes reviews about important studies available about migration and left behind women. The reviews are arranged in an order of international, national and state level studies related to the topic and the chapter ends with the research gap. The third chapter deals with the extent and pattern of international migration with an over view of the whole world then coming to India and then Kerala lastly to Malappuram district. The fourth chapter gives a picture about the sample area and the socio, economic and psychological profile of the sample respondents. Fifth chapter is devoted to the analysis of the impact of international male migration on the left behind women. The sixth chapter deals with the various determinants of women empowerment which is analyzed using various statistical methods. A dependent variable - an empowerment index, is constructed by considering the details of decision making, mobility, financial management and inter-spouse consultation of the respondents. Finally an association between dependent and independent variables are established using a multiple linear regression. The seventh, the last chapter gives the summary and conclusions emerging from the whole study.

## **7.2 Summary and Findings**

This section unravels the major findings and conclusion emerged from this study on the basis of objectives. The main objective of the present study is to examine the impact of international migration and inflow of remittances on the empowerment of left behind women in Malappuram district, with this board objective in mind, following specific objectives were set for the study; 1) To identify the extent and pattern of international male migration in Kerala.2) To examine the socio-economic and psychological wellbeing of women in migrant and non-migrant households.3) To

analyze the impact of international male migration on the left behind women. 4) To determine the factors affecting women's empowerment in study area.

### ***7.2.1 To examine the extent and pattern of international male migration in Kerala.***

In order to attain the first objective of the study, an over view of the magnitude, trend and pattern of international migration and remittance in general and particularly Kerala is discussed. The study attempted to find the matters relating global, national and state level trends in international migration, remittances, religious composition of emigrants.etc.

- Global trend in international Migration shows that there are 272 million international migrants in 2019. It is 3.5 percent of World population. 74 percent of international migrants are of the age group 20 to 64 and in that 52 percent are males and 48 percent females. United Nations of America has been the main country of destination of international migrants with about 51 million immigrants, followed by Germany and Soudi Arabia. The largest migrant origin country is India with about 17.5 million emigrants, followed by Mexico (11.8 million) and China (10.7 million).
- A comparison of World Migration Report-2000 with the current World Migration Report-2020 shows that some aspects have stayed fairly constant and some others have drastically changed. The aspects like the proportion of females in international migrants, overall proportion of world's population who were migrants, Country with highest proportion of international migrants in their population that is UAE, country with largest number of immigrants that is USA, etc. remained almost unchanged for the last 20 years.
- The remittances have increased from 126 billion in 2000 to 689 billion in 2020. According to World Migration Report 2020 India's remittance receipts are USD 78.6 billion, followed by china and Mexico with USD 67.4 and USD 35.7 billion respectively. United States is the highest remittance (giving) sending country with USD 68 billion followed by UAE with USD 44.4 billion and Saudi Arabia with USD 36.1 billion.

- The country wise distribution of remittances towards India shows that 82 percent of total remittance is coming from seven countries. In that top share is from UAE with 26.9 percent and 22.9 percent from US, other countries followed are Saudi Arabia (11.6), Qatar (6.5), Kuwait (5.5), UK (3) and Oman (3).
- Among the states from which emigrants originates from India, Kerala has the lead till 2008. In 2006 Tamil Nadu had the largest outflow followed by Kerala. In 2008 Kerala stands first with 18 lakhs of emigrants in Kerala. While in 2014 Utter Pradesh came to the first position with 2290000 emigrants followed by Bihar (98.7), Tamil Nadu (83.3), and Kerala(66). In 2019 Utter Pradesh having largest number of emigrants, followed by Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. Kerala back to 6<sup>th</sup> position in sending emigrants according to the emigration clearance. (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Annual report 2019). According to RBI survey of inward remittances for 2016-17, Kerala stands in top followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. The survey reveals that 58.7 percent of total remittance to India was received by these four states.
- The religious pattern of emigration in India shows that religious minorities have more tendencies to migrate internationally. According to 2011 Census in India there is 79.80 percent of Hindus, 14.23 percent of Muslims and 2.30 percent of Christian. But in the religious composition of emigrants in India is different. According to Pew Research Centre estimates 19 percent of emigrants are Christians, 27 percent are Muslims and only 45 percent are Hindus.

The extent and pattern of international migrants in Kerala for the last 20 years is examined in the study. This is examined using the available Secondary data, mainly the Kerala Migration Survey conducted by CDS which has a 20 year history in migration data collection since 1998 continued at an interval of 5 years. This is one of the few main reliable source of information related to migration in Kerala.

- In Kerala the extent of emigrants in 2018 is about 21 lakhs. 20 years back it was 13 lakhs. From 1998 onwards every 5 years KMS collected data about

emigrants in Kerala which shows a positive growth with 24 lakhs in 2013 but after that in 2018 it become 21 lakhs. One of the most important demographic reasons behind the fall of emigration is the decline in the population of working age group it is clear from 2001 census and 2011 census. (Zachariah and Rajan, 2014). Another most important factor behind the decline in emigration is the declining wage differentials between Kerala state and the Gulf countries. The average wage of unskilled labour in Kerala during 2000 was Rs.150, which has raised to Rs. 450 in 2010. At the same time there has been no increase in wages in the gulf countries. (Zachariah, Rajan and Arya, 2015). This faded the migration desire of the huge unskilled and semi-skilled workers from Kerala also the competition from the unskilled and semi-skilled workers from other states of India like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reduced the number of emigrants from Kerala. The nationalization policies taken by the Arab countries is also a major reason behind the reduction of emigrants from the state.

- Malappuram district was the origin of the largest number of emigrants in 2018; it also had the highest number of emigrants in previous years. According to the KMS 2018, 19.1 percent of emigrant population in Kerala is from Malappuram district followed by Kannur and Trissur with 11.8 and 11.4 percent respectively. There has been a slow but steady shift northward in the origin of emigrants within Kerala. (K.C.Zachariah and S Irudaya Rajan, 2012)
- In 1998 emigrant per 100 households in Kerala were 21.4 then in 2003 it increased to 26.7 then in the next two survey periods it increased to 29 and 29.3 respectively. But in the current survey in 2018 it was found decreased to 24. The district wise emigrants shows that 24 out of hundred households in Kerala has a migrant. In Malappuram 42 out of 100 households are emigrant households followed by (38.8) Kannur.
- According to Pravasi Malayali Census 2013, There are 14,26,853 working emigrants, in that 13,27,527 are male migrants and 9,93,26 are female migrants. That is 93.04% of working emigrants are males and only 6.96% is female working emigrants. Female working migrants share is highest in districts like Kottayam and Idukki with 31.68 and 32.83 respectively. Similar to KMS



survey in PMC 2013 also shows a male migration trend in the northern districts of Kerala. The largest number of emigrants in the total working migrants belong to casual workers and drivers. Thus it is understood that majority emigrants are unskilled and semiskilled workers.

- Bulk share of migrants are in the middle age group that is 31 to 45 category. According to Kerala Migration Survey-2018, the majority of emigrants falls in the age group 31 to 45 years (46.4%). Emigrants above 60 years and less than 10 years are 1.2 percent and 8 percent respectively. Majority of male emigrants (42.8 percent) are having higher secondary level of education while more than half (53.1) of women emigrants from Kerala are having degree. Illiterates among both males and females emigrants are low in the state.
- The favorite destination place of majority emigrants from Kerala is Gulf countries. About 89.2 percent emigrants are in Gulf in 2018. Nine out of ten emigrant from Kerala is in Gulf.
- Muslims are over- represented in state emigration stock when compared with the share in total population.
- Remittance is considered as one of the major contributor to the income of Kerala economy. It is about 19 percent of state NSDP according to KMS-2018.
- Religious composition of emigrants in Kerala like India shows a different picture compared to the religious composition of population in the state. . In Kerala also religious minorities shows prominence in emigration. According to 2011 census 54.7 percent of Kerala's population is Hindus, 26.6 percent are Muslims and 18.4 percent are Christians. The proportion of emigrants Muslims was 41.7 percent while Hindus and Christians were 34.7 and 23.6 respectively. Thus Muslims are over-represented among emigrants whereas Hindus are under-represented in emigrants population of Kerala.
- District wise remittance details of the total remittance at the state shows that 21% came from Malappuram district followed by Kollam (15%) and Thrissur (11%). Eranakulam, Alappuzha and Kasarkode Shows a decline in remittance

from 2013 to 2018. Largest amount of remittance were received by Malappuram district. ie. 6326 crores in 2018. Followed by Kollam and Thrissur with 4602 crores and 3350 crores respectively. There is an increase in Household remittance from 1998 to 2018. There was 61 percent increase in remittance during 2008 to 2013. But after that in 2013 to 2018 the household remittance increased only 26 percent. The number of emigrants was 2400375 in 2013 which decreased to 2121887 during 2018. Still remittance increased, though in a decreasing rate. The total share in the state remittance is highest from Muslims that is 42% followed by Hindus (37%) and Christians (20%) in 2018. When compared to 2013 the percentage share of remittance of Muslims and Hindus increased whereas Christian share decreased in 2018.

- About return migrants there are 14 out of 100 household in Kerala having return migrants with maximum of 32.1 from Malappuram. In case of non-resident Keralites also Malappuram district is highest with 21 percentage followed by Kollam with 11.9 percent and Kannur with 10.1 percent in 2018.
- Malappuram district is one of the most notable district in the number of emigrants and remittance. It is the only Muslim majority district in Kerala. Pravasi Malayali census data of Economic and Statistics Department shows emigrants in Malappuram is having less dependents with them in the Gulf. Largest number of migrants who stay abroad without families is from Malappuram district(184320). Thus the number of left behind families are highest in Malappuram district. Therefore Malappuram is selected for the study to collect primary data because the study is about the impacts of international migration on the left behind women.

### ***7.2.2 The socio economic and psychological wellbeing of women in migrant and non-migrant households.***

To examine the socio economic and psychological wellbeing of women in migrant and non-migrant households are considered for the second objective of the study, a precise and meaningful analysis of the impact of international migration on the left behind women, a detailed examination of socio-economic characteristics and

psychological wellbeing of the sample units, at individual as well as household level, has been done in Chapter IV. The findings of this chapter is summarized below.

- First the profile of the study area Malappuram and reason to choose the particular area, the socio economic and geographical details are given. Then the particular sample profile and its details are considered. Malappuram district is having largest number of male migrants so it is best suited for the present study about the impact of international migration on left behind women. Thus Malappuram district was chosen purposively. Then six Grama panchayats and four Municipalities from the selected area was randomly selected. Angadippuram, vangara, Koottilagadi, Kuruva, Kalpakancheri and Thuvor were the panchayats selected and Perintalmanna, Kottakkal, Tirur and Malappuram were the municipalities randomly selected. After that one ward from each selected Grama panchayat and Municipalities were randomly selected. After categorizing the households into two sections of migrant and non-migrant households, 15 samples from each categories were randomly selected. Thus we get 150 migrant household samples and 150 non migrant household samples. Thus total sample size for the study is 300 with 180 rural and 120 urban samples.

Second the general information about the respondents which deals with the area of residence, religion, caste, family type, family size, APL-BPL categorization, number of earning members, family income, Age, education, occupation, years of schooling and native place of respondents and their husbands, education and occupational status of respondent's parents were also included in this section.

- The locality of households in the sample shows that 60 percent of samples are from rural area and 40 percent is from urban area. According to 2011 census in Malappuram district 44.18 percent of population lives in urban regions of the district and 55.82 lives in rural areas of villages. The rural-urban proportion in Malappuram district is similar to the sample.
- In the total sample, 69.3 percent of the respondents are Muslims and 25.3 percent are Hindus and 5.3 percent are Christians. Chi-square value ( $\chi^2 = 7.480$ ) was found to be significant at 5 percent level which indicates that there

is difference in the religious distribution among migrants and non-migrants. Among migrants 77 percent are Muslims and in non-migrants it is only 62 percent. While in case of Hindus only 19 percent are migrants and 32 percent are in non-migrant category and among Christians 5 percent are migrants and 6 percent are non-migrants. Thus when compared to other religion Muslims show greater tendency towards migration.

- Regarding the caste general and SC population falls below OBC category in the sample. This is because about 70 percent of samples are Muslims and all of them come under OBC category.
- The major religious category in the sample are Muslims, the sub categories in Muslims were also considered for the study. In the total sample 77 percent are Sunni category. 66 percent of migrants and 90 percent among non-migrants are Sunni category. Another category among Muslims are Mujahid category(27 percent) in that 33percent in migrants category and10 percentage in non- migrant category.
- In the total sample households, about 68 percent belong to nuclear family and 32 percent belong to joint family.  $\chi^2$  result is non-significant which indicates that the distribution of sample according to type of family are same in migrant and non-migrant samples.
- In the sample, size of family ranges between 2 to 14 with an average size of 5.78, which is almost similar to district average which is 5.2 and that of state average, is 4.7.  $\chi^2$  results are found to be non-significant which indicates that the distribution of sample according to size of family is same in migrant and non-migrant samples.
- The number of BPL households is more in non-migrant category compared to migrant category. Chi-square value ( $\chi^2 = 5.921$  and p value = 0.015) was found to be significant at 1 percent level which indicates that there is difference in the number of people in APL and BPL categories among migrants and non-migrants.

Income is one of the most important factors which help us to understand the economic status of the families. In migrant family remittances play a vital role in income, which makes a major difference in the distribution of income between migrants and non-migrants.

- The level of income was grouped into 6 six categories as 10000, 10001 – 20000, 20001 – 50000, 50001 – 100000, 100001 – 200000, 200000 and above. There is no migrant in the first category (below 10000) of income and no non-migrant in the last category (Above 200000). Monthly income of migrants and non-migrants show very significant difference which is statistically proved using  $\chi^2$  tests.  $\chi^2$  value (226.284 and P- value<0.001) was found to be significant at 1 percent which indicates that there is difference in the income distribution among migrants and non-migrants.
- About the education qualification of the respondents there is significant difference among migrants and non-migrant women. That is no single respondent in migrant category with no formal education whereas it is 12 percent in non-migrant category. From this we can understand that migrant women have more educational attainment when compared to non-migrant women.
- A significant difference among migrants and non-migrants are seen in their occupational status. 53 percent of women in migrant households and only 20 percent women in non-migrant households are employed. No women in migrant households are engaged in low paid daily wage category while 6 percent in non-migrant household in this category. 80 percent in non-migrants and 47 percent in migrant continue to be unemployed as house wives. Thus the sample data confirms that women in migrant households shows favorable attitude towards going out for jobs. Occupational status is one of the most important factor determining the economic independence and empowerment of women. Gainful employment assures women more decision making power and substantial contribution to family budget gives women more status and self- esteem.

- Data about the education of spouse in the study indicates that higher level of education is more in migrants compared to non-migrants in the sample.
- Regarding occupation, about 60 percent of emigrants are engaged in trained and untrained technical jobs while 60 percent of non-migrant men are engaged in self-employed and coolie category.
- When considering marital duration less than 10 years of marital duration and more than 25 years of marital duration is less in migrants when compared to non-migrants.  $\chi^2$  values (47.821 with p-value 0.001) was found to be significant at 1 percent level of significance which indicates that there is notable difference in the distribution of marital duration among migrants and non-migrants.

The housing status, ownership of land and the details of household durables owned by the respondents are examined. This reflects the standard of life style of the respondents.

- Most of the emigrants express their economic status by their house status.  $\chi^2$  value (9.955 with p-value 0.003) was found to be significant at 1 percent level of significance which indicates that there is notable difference in the distribution ownership of house among migrants and non-migrants. Regarding the ownership of house it is found that respondents having own houses are more in migrants compared to non-migrants. This is due to the fact that almost all emigrants most important goal is to have an own house. Ownership status in the name of wife is very rare in the sample. In migrant and non-migrant categories house ownership in both husband and wife name is greater in migrant households (19 percent) than in non-migrant category (11.9 percent).
- The sample households were classified into very big, big, average and small according to the size of the house. Regarding the housing status, a wider variation is reported between migrant and non-migrant households. From the study it is clear that international migration and remittances has played a great role in housing status of migrants compared to non-migrants.  $\chi^2$  value (49.906) was found to be significant at 1 percent which indicates that there is

difference in the standard of housing among migrants and non-migrants. From it is clear that migration remittances are mainly used for constructing palatial houses.

- Average size (in square feet) of the house of migrants and non-migrants were compared using independent t-test. Mean square feet of migrants is 1908.80 and that of non-migrants is 1860.71. Test statistic t-value was found to be non-significant. This shows that there is no significant difference in the size of the house among migrant and non-migrant. But the houses greater than 2500 square feet is larger in migrant (18 percent) category compared to non-migrant (7 percent).
- About 75 percent of migrants and 44 percent of non-migrants had done house construction and renovation. 13 percent of migrants and 47 percent of non-migrants had spent less than 10 lakhs for house construction and renovation while 36 percent of migrants and 26 percent of non-migrants spend above 20 lakhs.  $\chi^2$  test was done to prove statistically the difference in the amount spent by migrants and non-migrants.  $\chi^2$  value (30.528) was found to be significant at 1 percent, which indicates that there is significant difference in the amount spent on land, house and house renovation among migrants and non-migrants. All the above facts make us clear about the emigrants have special interest in constructing big ultra-modern houses with high level of infrastructural facilities.
- An attempt was done to understand whether husband had any other property other than their house they live in. It also helps us to understand about the attitude of migrants and non-migrants towards investing money in land. It is 54 percent migrant males and 26 percent non-migrant males are having land. From this it is clear that migrants have more interest and money to invest in land compared to non-migrants.
- Regarding the material durable possession also the impact of international migration is prominent. It is evident that international migration of males played an important role in the possession of consumer durables of left behind women compared to women in non-migrant households. A major part of

remittances of their husbands are used for the purchase of modern equipment which in turn reflects the socio-economic status of the emigrant households and their standard of living.

The consumption expenditure of the respondents are also investigated. Their total monthly consumption expenditure details about education and health expenditure. Details about shopping, beauty parlour and health club visits etc. along with detailed expenditure priority ranking of the respondents was also in this section.

- Monthly consumption expenditure of migrant households and non-migrant households was calculated and found that the mean consumption expenditure of migrant households is Rs.22153.33 and that of non-migrant households found to be Rs.18450.00. From this it is clear that migrant households have more consumption expenditure than non-migrant households. This comparison is statistically proved using independent t-test (t-value= 4.657 and p-value>0.001) and the results shows that there is significant difference in the consumption expenditure between migrant and non-migrant households.
- Regarding the expenditure on health and education it is explicitly evident that migrant spends more than non-migrants. The study found that migrants prefer private institutions for treatments and educations than government institutions when compared to non-migrants. This difference in the preference among migrants and non-migrants are also statistically proved using chi-square test. The preference of the emigrant members towards the private hospitals for treatment and private institution for study indicates their ability to pay more for superior health care facilities and for better education. This is mainly due to their better financial position from remittance income.
- As the impact of remittance many big malls and shopping malls emerged in all municipalities and in small towns of Malappuram district in the last few years. The attitude towards consumer culture is fast increasing especially in the case of wives of migrants. 53 percent of migrants and 36 percent non-migrants visit big malls for their stoppings. 64 percent of women in non-migrant households do not prefer big shops or malls for shopping, but it is only 47 percent among migrant women. There is clear picture of difference between migrants and



non-migrants in their shopping place. This is statistically proved using Chi square test, where the  $X^2$  value (9.117 with p-value 0.003) was found to be significant at 1 percent level of significance which indicates that there is notable difference among migrants and non-migrants in the places from where they purchase various goods. The mean amount spend on cloth purchase is Rs.16420 among migrants and Rs.9700 among non-migrants. The difference in the mean amount shows that the migrants have a higher consumption expenditure on cloths compared to non-migrants. This comparison is also statistically proved using independent t-test.

- Regarding beauty parlour and health club visits also women in migrant households are far ahead than non-migrant women. Expenditure priority of migrants and non-migrant households for a set of 15 items were examined. A preference index worked out for migrant and non-migrant were compared using Wilcoxon signed rank test. Non-significant results (z-value = 0.909; p-value = 0.363) shows that the preference to different items are almost same among the migrants and non-migrants.

The saving, investment and debt details of the samples were also explored. Details regarding amount and type of savings, amount and type of investments, amount, sources, purpose and expected period of repayment of debt etc. are explained statistically in this section. This gives us a picture about the respondent's economic habits and attitude towards those economic activities.

- All migrant households are having savings while only 54 percent of non-migrants is having some type of savings. 61 percent of migrants are having investments but it is only 30 percent in case of non-migrants. Thus it is clear from the survey data that respondent's status regarding savings and investments varies widely in migrant and non-migrant households. But in the matter of debt both categories of households are having similar status. About 70 percent of migrant and non-migrant households are having debt.  $X^2$  tests were done to establish statistically the above matter. Debt amount is higher among migrants but the expected period of repayment is less while that of non-migrants debt amount is comparatively low and the expected period of repayment is more .

Finally the psychological wellbeing of the respondents is scientifically tested using Ryff's Psychological wellbeing (18 items). Here 6 sub scale items- autonomy, environment mastery, personal growth, positive relation, purpose in life, self-acceptance are examined for the women in migrant and non-migrant households and statistically analyzed using various statistical tests. The psychological wellbeing - 18 items is a standardized questionnaire developed by Carol D Ryff and Keyes is used in the study.

- Comparison between migrant and non-migrant was done by using Mann Whitney U test. Results show that in all dimensions and also in the case of overall psychological wellbeing z-value was found to be significant at 0.01 levels. This indicates that there exists significant difference in all dimensions of and also overall psychological well-being among migrants and non-migrants. Comparing the mean values it is observed that in all cases migrants have higher mean compared to non-migrants which indicates that psychological wellbeing is more among migrants compared to non-migrants. This may be due to the exposure attained by left behind women in all levels especially outside the home. On the other hand women in non-migrant households are getting lesser exposure since they are living together with husbands. So almost all outside household responsibilities are done by their husbands. Thus they become lazy and inactive in outside household activities. Whereas the left behind women utilizes their opportunity in the absence of their husbands, to exhibit their full potential in all out door and in door household activities. Thus they started to realize their own potential which increases their psychological strength.

### ***7.2.3 To assess the impact of international male migration on the left behind women.***

In chapter five, in order to attain the third objective of the study we analyzed the impact of international male migration on the left behind women in her personal and social life. In this chapter first both women in migrant and non-migrant households are examined together after that the left behind women are considered separately.

The major findings of the study are summarized as follows.

- The study attempted an enquiry into women's participation in various social, political, religious, cultural, economic and agricultural activities. Respondent's participation in various activities outside home was asked in detail. The researcher analyzed these aspects in the respondents by scoring their response in a five point scale. Conducting statistical test, Mann Whitney U test it was found that the overall participation of the respondents was found to be favorable to left behind women in migrant households compared to women in non-migrant households. Participation in social activities was examined in detail and found that managing time for participation and memberships in social groups and also holding positions in those activities women in migrant households are more active when compared to non-migrant women.
- Almost all respondents irrespective in migrant and non-migrant households are able to manage all indoor household activities like cooking, cleaning, child care etc. alone. While in case of outdoor activities like banking, purchasing goods, paying various bills, matters regarding children's schooling, hospital cases etc. indicates that there is notable difference in the willingness and management of outdoor household activities among migrants and non-migrants. Benefits gained by the respondents by their outdoor activities were asked and ranked. 12 benefits were given to the respondents to rank their preference. It was found that the ranking came almost similar for migrants and non-migrants for various given items. Good friends, information and awareness, experience sharing, knowledge of dealing people outside, emotional benefits, positive attitudes etc. were the benefits having higher ranks for the respondents.
- Majority of respondents in the sample were from Muslims community, who were very much orthodox towards female education and age of marriage of girls. But findings of the study shows a change in the attitude of Muslim community towards women education and it can be also understood by increase in the number of Muslim institutions for women education in the district. All these changed the attitude of men and women towards

education and thus many continued education. Regarding the investigation about respondent's continuation of education after marriage, it was found left behind women outnumbered than women in non-migrant households.  $\chi^2$  value (56.456 with p-value 0.001) was found to be significant at 1 percent level, which indicates that there is notable difference in the distribution of continuation of education of respondents among migrants and non-migrants, regarding their studies after marriage. After the departure of the husbands to foreign countries it is most suitable for the young left behind women to overcome their loneliness and worries, and to be engaged safe if they are living in joint families.

- In order to understand respondent's attitude towards their mobility as well as their individuality it was investigated about their knowledge about driving skill. It was found that about 61 percent of left behind women know driving while only 16 percent of women in non-migrant families are aware of driving. Another important finding was that majority of those left behind women who know driving learned it after their marriage.  $\chi^2$  value (78.128 with p-value 0.001) was found to be significant at 1 percent level of significance, which indicates that there is significant difference in the distribution of respondents according to their knowledge in driving among migrants and non-migrants. This indicates the fact that left behind women in their present circumstances took effort to learn driving because they did not want to depend others for their various needs outside and wishes to be independent. The women living with husbands are not very much involving outdoor activities since husband's deals with those activities and women like to be dependent to their males. From this it is clear that circumstances forces people to take efforts to manage the situation. Here the absence of men along with his monetary support in the form of remittance, together with large responsibility to be fulfilled by them inside and outside the household, act as the driving force behind her to learn these new skills.
- Regarding financial matters left behind women have more say than non-migrant women. Matters like the awareness about husbands income, respondent's accessibility to husband's income, control of money in the

household etc. are investigated and found that left behind women are always ahead than non-migrant women.

- Regarding feminine issues like scandalous talk, stare, vulgar jokes, getting obscene phone calls etc. are more affected to left behind women compared to non-migrant women. This may be due to the knowledge of absence of men. In case of relationship with in laws very few have strained relationship, others have normal and excellent relationship in both women in migrant and non- migrant households.

Now details exclusively regarding left behind women were discussed.

- Regarding remittances about 42 percent receive money monthly and regularly while 55percent receives money without any regular pattern. Majority sends money through banks.
- 60 percent of left behind women stay independently while 30 percent lives along with their in-laws.
- To examine the frequency of visits and mode of communication 3 periods were considered that is early period (before 2005), middle period (2006-2015), and current period (after 2015). In the survey only 65 emigrants were in the earlier period. It was found that now the frequency of visits increased when coming to current years. The land phones which were used for communication in earlier periods were shifted to mobile phones in the middle period which were now replaced by smart phones.
  - It was found that the frequency of calls increased from weekly in the early period to daily many times in current periods. 90 percent of left behind women were satisfied with the new communication devices.

Now coming to the merits and demerits of emigration of husbands on the left behind women are examined.

- It was found not only financial benefits but many socio personal talents are acquired by those left behind women in the absence of their husbands.

- The good experiences of emigration of husbands include their financial gains, construction or renovation of house and increased the standard of living of their families left behind.
- Bad experience is loneliness, insecurity, added responsibilities and worries about future etc. are some among them.

To sum up a clear picture about the impact of emigration of husbands on the wives left behind. The study found left behind women are far ahead than women in non-migrant households in managing almost all indoor and outdoor household activities. Left behind women found acquired many personal talents due to the absence of the husband. Technological improvement in transport and communication also helped them a lot. At the midst of huge responsibilities and loneliness, left behind women fought bravely, looking forward with satisfaction for a bright future of herself and her family.

#### **7.2.4 To identify the factors affecting women's empowerment**

Finally to make our analysis more precise and to find the determinants of empowerment which is the fourth objective of the study, in the sixth chapter we tried to assess the empowerment of women in migrant and non-migrant households.

- The empowerment among left behind women and women in non-migrant households was found to be significant (Z-value 15.93) indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among migrant and non-migrant respondents. Mean value shows that the higher value for is for women in migrant households (52.48) compared to non-migrants (23.11).
- Z-value was found to be significant indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among rural and urban respondents. The mean empowerment index of rural respondents is 35.14; while that of urban is 41.77. Over all empowerment index in the case of women in non-migrant households is found higher for urban (21.20) women than rural (25.97).
- Z-value was found to be significant indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among the respondents belonging to Joint

and Nuclear family. Mean value shows higher value for respondents in nuclear family. This indicates that respondents in nuclear family (41.64) have significantly higher empowerment compared to respondents in joint family (29.37).

- Z-value was found to be significant indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among the employed and unemployed respondents. Higher mean value (52.15) for employed respondent indicates that empowerment is significantly higher among employed respondents compared to unemployed respondents (29.48).
- Results shows that F-value in the case of migrants and also in the case non-migrants is found to be significant at 0.01 level and that for overall cases it is significant at 0.05 level. Significant F-value indicates that there exists significant difference in empowerment among different religion both in migrant and non-migrant cases and also in the case of overall sample. Thus a pair wise comparison was done by using Least Significant Difference (LSD) test. Christians has significantly higher empowerment compared to other two categories.
- Z-value was found to be significant at 0.01 level indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among the respondents above 40 years and below 40 years. Higher mean value (44.57) for respondent above age group 40 indicates that empowerment is significantly higher among respondents above age group 40 compared to respondents below age group (31.46). Test result shows similar pattern of result for both migrants and non-migrant women.
- Respondents in both category that is above 10 years of marital duration and below 10 years of marital duration, women in migrant families have more empowerment compared to women in non-migrant households. In both cases F value are significant also. The results of the study show that as marital duration increases the empowerment of women also increases.

- Significant F-value indicates that there exists significant difference in empowerment among different income categories in the case of overall sample. As income increases empowerment also increases. A pair wise comparison was done by using LSD test to confirm the results.
- Correlation of overall empowerment with education of respondents in migrant and non-migrant category was found non-significant. But in the total sample Correlation of overall empowerment with education is found significant with correlation coefficient 0.332 which shows a low positive correlation between education and overall empowerment.
- Correlation coefficient test result implies that as education of spouse increases the overall empowerment of the respondent increases. Among migrant and non-migrant categories of respondent's similar pattern of relationship between spouse education and overall empowerment was found.
- Other variables like age, Number of earning members in the family and participation in social activity are significantly positively correlated with empowerment. Family size is negatively correlated with empowerment. Negative correlation of the empowerment shows that as the family size increases overall empowerment decreases.
- Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to test psychological wellbeing relation with empowerment. For all the 6 subscales correlation was found to be significant and positive. Thus as overall psychological wellbeing increases empowerment is also increases.

The major findings of multiple regression can be summarized as follows, which deals with the factors determining the empowerment of women. This is one of the most important objectives of the study, the impact of international male migration on left behind women in Malappuram district.

- An empowerment index was constructed by assessing details regarding women's participation in four areas namely decision making, mobility of respondents, financial management and inter-spouse consultation.



- There were 20 questions regarding decision making, according to the responses given by the respondents scores are assigned as 0, 1, and 2. according to the answers, a decision making index was prepared. Thus maximum score for this dimension is 40. Then regarding mobility 10 questions was asked, and 0, 1 and 2 were the scores assigned for each response with a maximum score 20, a mobility index was prepared. Next a financial management index was prepared by the response for 8 yes or no questions, scored as 0 and 1, with maximum score 8 in this dimension, which gives an idea regarding the respondent's role in financial matters. Last an inter spouse consultation index was prepared using 10 quires about respondent's consultation required with husband before that household activity. Scores for each questions in this dimension is scored as 0 and 1, with maximum score 10. Since lesser consultation is considered as an indicator of more empowerment so that unlike other dimensions, the scores of this dimension are reversely scored. By summing the scores of each dimensions an overall empowerment index was constructed, which ranged between 0 to 78.
- This empowerment index was kept as our dependent variable and a multiple linear regression was done by 14 independent variables used in step wise variable selection procedure in which 8 variables such as migration status, type of family, occupation status of the respondent, Age of the respondent, occupation status of the mother of the respondent, education of the spouse, overall psychological wellbeing and social participation show significant association.
- F-value (167.576) was found to be significant at 0.01 level of significance and Coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is 0.829. So the model is a good fit and almost 83 per cent of the variability in overall empowerment is due to the independent variables.
- In these 8 variables 5 are statistically significant at one percent level of significance; they are migration status of the respondents, overall psychological wellbeing, social participation, Family type and occupation status of the respondents. The other 3 variables that is respondent's age,

education of spouse and occupation status of respondent's mother are statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance.

- Magnitude of standardized regression coefficient is higher for migration status which shows that this is the most significant variable influencing the empowerment of the respondents.
- The hypothesis of the study was that there is significant association between migration status and empowerment of left behind women is supported by the regression analysis
- Migration status itself as one of the major factor determining empowerment of women in the study area.
- Migration status gives women an exposure to experience various opportunities which were once inaccessible for them. Thus migration status can be said as a window of opportunity for the respondents in the study area. Migration of husbands gives a chance to the left behind women to do the inside and outside household activities alone. This challenging opportunity gave those women various positive and negative experiences resulting an overall personality development and an enhancement of their self-esteem and status. Thus we can conclude that international male migration is one of the most important factor determining the empowerment of respondents in the study area women.
- Next most important factor determining empowerment of women in the study area is the overall psychological wellbeing of the respondents. Psychological wellbeing of the respondents was tested scientifically using Ruff's Psychological wellbeing test. Three questions from six different dimensions of life was asked to the respondents through an 18 item questionnaire which includes six subscale items - autonomy, environment mastery, personal growth, positive relations, purpose of life and self-acceptance. As there is only three items in each dimension, the total scores for each dimension may ranges in between 3 to 21 and the total scores ranges between 54 to 126. Scores attained for each dimensions and the psychological wellbeing of the respondents were analyzed in detail in chapter four, here overall psychological

wellbeing of the respondents is considered. Respondents who scored high values for autonomy subscale, environment mastery, personal growth, positive relation, purpose of life, and self-acceptance have gained more empowerment. Because overall psychological wellbeing is the sum total of all the scores attained for six subscale items.

- Another factor important in determining empowerment of women in the study is the social participation of the respondent. This study attempted an enquiry into women's participation in various social activities. Respondents meeting and interacting with people outside home helps them to gain much information and exposure. Regarding the social activities here activities of women outside home such as Kudumasree meetings and activities associated with that and Ayalkoottam, participation in meetings of kids in schools, participation in different type of associations etc. were considered. Participation of respondents in various social activities was enquired and documented. The researcher analyzed these aspects in the respondents by scoring their response in a five point scale. The study result found that respondents with high social participation have more empowerment.
- Family type is another important factor effecting empowerment. Family is an important institution which acts as a basic support system for the all-round development an individual. Family type can be divided into two that is joint family and nuclear family. Though both family types have its own positives and negatives, here in the study it was found that women living in nuclear families have more empowerment. Women living in joint families have a higher level of restrictions than is experienced by women in nuclear families. Absence of husbands due to migration from the joint family does not affect the authority pattern. In joint families there are many members to share with the household responsibilities. But women living in nuclear families in the absence of their husbands have to fulfill many responsibilities alone. While in nuclear families unlike joint families women got an opportunity to participate and to take decisions in household matters. This independent participation of left behind women in household activities like decision making and financial management gives them more self-confidence, freedom and status.

- Occupational status of respondents found positively associated with women empowerment. Employment of the respondents is another important variable that influence women's empowerment. The earning capacity attributes economic independence to women. This economic independence is the key factor which determines women's empowerment. The study result support Blood and Wolfe's resource theory (1960) which states that power of spouse within the family depends on the resource or the amount each spouse brings to the household. Education, income, employment etc. are some important socioeconomic resources. Education helps to get employment which leads to earning capacity and help her to gain power. This power is reflected in the decision making, mobility, financial management and inter-spouse consultation of the left behind women. This in turn reflects in her all-round empowerment.
- Age of respondents is another important factor influencing women's empowerment. With an increase in age of the respondents there is an increase in decision making, mobility, financial management and a decrease in spouse consultation leading to an increased empowerment.
- The study found education of husband positively influence wife's participation in household activities like decision making, mobility, financial management , and a less inter-spouse consultation in small household matters thus leads women to be more empowered. The level of educational attainment of respondent's husband does translate into greater freedom to women, indicating that there might be lesser intervening factors exerting a positive influence on the expected outcome of more liberal attitude with increasing level of education of husbands.
- Another influencing factor behind women's empowerment is from their own family background. The socio economic background of the respondents where they lived earlier will reflect in her current behavior. The study enquired about respondents parents educational and occupational backgrounds and found a positive association between respondent's mother's occupational status and respondents empowerment. That is employed mother's daughters are found more empowerment. This means women whose parents have higher socio

economic status by income or employment, have more decision making power, mobility, financial management and a positive inter-spouse consultation.

### **7.3 Validation of hypothesis**

The hypothesis of the study that, there is a significant association between international male migration and empowerment of left behind women in the study area has been supported by the regression analysis results. The findings of the present study and the results of multiple regression analysis validate the hypothesis. Result of regression analysis made it clear that migration status itself as one of the major factor in determining empowerment of women in the study area. Migration status gives women an exposure to experience various opportunities which were once inaccessible for them and still not accessible to women in non-migrant households. Thus, migration status can be said as a window of opportunity which can be utilized for empowerment of respondents in the study area.

### **7.4 Policy implication**

Since independence government of India has been making various efforts to empower women. But still Indian women lag behind in status. State government also took many measures to improve their situation. The findings of the study will help in understanding the positive and negative impacts of male migration on women left behind. This will help in framing new policies for the betterment of migrants and their left behind wives. The study is crucial not only for providing a basis for rational in planning matters relating to women empowerment but also in dealing with the feminine issues and assessing them and making a transition, to a better way of life. Hope the study provides exciting opportunity to advance the knowledge and scope of research in the particular area towards the wellbeing of left behind women.

### **7.5 Areas for future research**

Women empowerment achieved through international migration is a vast area for study with different dimensions. In this study all the aspects of emigration on left behind women is not covered. Only the socio-economic and psychological impacts of migration on left behind women were focused in this study. Detailed studies on the

impact of international migration, particularly in the context of male migration from other districts and its consequences on women left behind women is still very scarce and it needs a prominent field of enquiry and investigation.

### **7.6 Limitations of the study**

Since empowerment is a multidimensional concept it is not possible to include all the dimensions in the study. This study concentrated only on the socio-economic and psychological empowerment of left behind women in Malappuram district of Kerala due to the international migration of their husband and a resulting flow of remittances. The study can be widened and expanded to larger areas and dimensions for better results. Another practical limitation was the lack of up to date reliable secondary data which restricted the study. In primary data collection also some respondents were reluctant to reveal accurate information regarding income, assets and certain personal matters.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude finally, whatever the impact of international migration, the left behind women are developing an innate capacity to tackle problems not only within the family but also in the society in which they live. Moreover the increased income with the status equal to that of any man in their vicinity push out all the other problems associated with the absence of their husbands in a secondary level. Fortunately the incredible development in communication technology in the present scenario, made the distance shorter, frequency of visits increased, interaction with husbands became closer through mobile and web and thus reduced the pain of loneliness and isolation of left behind women. International male migration brought a lot of material change; the women left behind also gained a larger vision of the world around her. For the smooth running of family life, emigration of their husbands is the better choice in front of them and of- course the economic benefits together with the freedom and self-esteem enjoyed by left behind women always outweighed the burdens not only for today, but for the brighter tomorrow.